

Docket No. 2519-US-NP

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3. Remarks

This Amendment and Reply is filed in response to the Office Action having a mailing date of August 8, 2006. Claims 15-30, 32, 35, and 37-40 are currently pending. All claims stand rejected as being *prima facie* obvious over the cited art.

Applicants have amended Claims 15, 29, 30, 32, and 40 to specify that the affinity constant for TACI (SEQ ID NO:2) and TACI-L (SEQ ID NO:4) used in the screening methods is from 1.53×10^{-9} to 2.2×10^{-9} . Support for the amendments may be found at page 15, lines 5-12. Applicants submit that no new matter has been added.

Gross, Bram, and Yu do not teach or suggest that the affinity constant for TACI and TACI-L is from 1.53×10^{-9} to 2.2×10^{-9} . Applicants note that *Gross* teaches at paragraph [0110], Table 5 that the affinity constant for a soluble form of Neutrokin α (aka ztnf4, TACI-L) and TACI-expressing BHK cells is 1.11×10^{-9} , which is outside the range in Applicants' claimed invention.

As such, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) be removed.

Respectfully submitted,


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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the United States Patent and Trademark Office on the date indicated below.

Signed: 
Nanci M. Kertson

Date: Feb. 8, 2007